



KIIS Salzburg, Summer 2018

MUS 338 / THEA 375 Topics: Acting for Singers / Singing for Actors

Professor: Dr. Kimberly Gelbwasser Lazzeri

Email: gelbwassek1@nku.edu

Syllabus subject to change

Course Description:

This course is designed to equip acting singers and singing actors with the musical and dramatic techniques required of performers in a variety of genres for the stage, from Singspiel and operetta to "Golden Age" and contemporary musical theater. Students will develop skills and confidence in straight theatre, musical theatre, and operatic theatre. Students will then apply these skills in their performances with the KIIS Choir throughout Salzburg, as well as on the final concert at the completion of the program. Students will have opportunities to attend numerous stage works both within Salzburg, at the historic Landestheater and the Mozarteum, as well as on excursions to nearby Vienna, Munich, and Linz. Students will then critique and reflect upon the musical and dramatic techniques that they observed in live performance.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

- Perform in a variety of genres for the stage
- Critically analyze live performances
- Apply musical and dramatic techniques in performance

Required Texts and Materials:

- Pencils
- Recording device

Course Assignments:

- Participation: 45%

See "Production Expectations" below.

- Preparation for assigned projects and roles: 45%
- Character Study Report: 10%

Students are to submit a Character Study Report. The report should be two pages, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font.

Grading Scale:

90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; below 60=F

Course policies:

Submission of assignments:

Late reports will not be accepted and performance-day make-ups will not be administered **unless**

The student has a valid reason necessitating an extension or make-up, and arrangements are made with the instructor prior to the report due date.

OR

The student provides valid documentation for his/her absence.

In all other cases, missing a quiz or submitting a report late will result in a 0, averaged into the student's quiz grade.

Attendance:

Students are expected to arrive on time to every class and to participate in excursions as directed by the instructor. Unexcused absences from classes and/or excursions will result in a lowering of a student's grade, as will excessive tardiness. An excused absence will only be granted to students providing valid documentation stating the reason for their absence (i.e. doctor's note).

Production Expectations by Scot Buzza

1. Sing the ink. Respect the composer and learn music accurately: notes, rhythms, inflections, articulations, breaths, cut-offs, pronunciation of words. Know what every word means.
2. Sing the intention. Understand what the character wants in each beat of each scene, and understand how every word of the text helps the character fulfill that intention.
3. Memorize as soon as possible. Rehearsals are for rehearsing, not for practicing; know the difference. The larger your role, the greater your responsibility to be the first one off book. Only when you are off book can you begin engaging in the scene.
4. Arrive early to rehearsal. Arrive warmed up, well rested, focused, and hydrated. Arrive early enough to unpack your score and pencil, to stretch and talk with your colleagues, to make yourself comfortable and ask any questions of the director or stage manager, before the rehearsal begins.
5. Bring positive energy and self-confidence to each rehearsal! The rehearsal space is a sanctuary away from stress and distractions, so take advantage of it. Leave those things at the door; they will be there waiting for you when rehearsal is over.
6. Learn to be a generous performer. Your acting and your singing will be infinitely more powerful if you learn to stop thinking "me, me, me!" Instead of thinking about yourself, listen to the other actor. Really listen. Make the whole scene be about the other actor. Be intrigued by him / her, be surprised by him / her, convince him / her, make him / her look good. Make generous acting choices so that you begin to connect with your partner, so that you lose yourself in the moment, lose yourself in the circumstances of the character, and the reality of the scene suddenly becomes crystal clear.

7. Be a colleague: support your cast and crew, both on and off stage. Compliment them when appropriate, and cheer their successes. Don't wait until your first professional job to start figuring out how to behave like a professional. Practice full professionalism with the rest of the cast, crew, and orchestra; they are working their hardest to make you look good on stage. Some of your cast mates on stage are taking the biggest emotional risk of their lives by putting themselves up in front of an audience; they deserve your support.

8. What you do between rehearsals is 100% as important as what you do during rehearsal. Build your vocal health and conditioning. Make smart choices regarding vocal health and wellness! Build your sleep hours into your schedule, and guard them jealously. Practice your blocking between rehearsals. Practice your choreography. Study your score. Review your character's intentions. Read the libretto as if it were a book. Then read it again. And again.